

The e-mail below and the attached letter were sent by the registrant to congressional staff and Members of Congress on behalf of the German State of Rheinland-Pfalz.

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**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:02:11 AM

**Cc:** Phillips, Steven <[Steven.Phillips@us.dlapiper.com](mailto:Steven.Phillips@us.dlapiper.com)>

**Subject:** letter from Minister in Germany

As you know, we do some work with the German State of Rheinland Pfalz.

The Minister wanted to make sure that you got this letter that talks about all the support that has been provided to support the Air Base at Spangdahlem.

Some of the important info is on page 5 that sets forth milcon investment that has been made at the base in Spangdahlem.

Also, page 6 explains how the State of Rheinland Pfalz has invested over \$128 M in infrastructure and roads to support the base, and about \$5 M to support off base housing.

We hope this information is helpful as you consider these issue in the near future.  
Let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks !

**Steve Phillips**

**DLA Piper**

Co-Chair, Federal Law & Policy

Washington, D.C.

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Rheinland-Pfalz

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DER MINISTER

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28. August 2020

Mein Aktenzeichen

Ihr Schreiben vom

Telefon / Fax  
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Bitte immer angeben!

## Future Development of US Air Base Spangdahlem, Germany

Honorable Congressman Wilson,

After the Pentagon's announcement of a substantial troop withdrawal from Germany, a number of letters have been sent to Washington in order to underline the military and political importance of a strong US military presence in Germany and Europe – for both sides of the Atlantic. As a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, I can fully underline the importance of a strong transatlantic cooperation.

With this letter, I do not intend to re-state these arguments that have been shared already. Rather, I turn to you in order to provide additional information concerning the interior and exterior infrastructure of the US Air Base Spangdahlem (see attached fact sheet), which will be affected drastically by the proposed drawdown according to the plans published by the Secretary of Defense.

The German state of Rheinland-Pfalz (Rhineland-Palatinate) hosts major US military installations such as Ramstein Air Base, Landstuhl Medical Center and its replacement project at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz with its major locations in Kaiserslautern and Baumholder, as well as Spangdahlem Air Base.





As the Secretary of the Interior of Rheinland-Pfalz, I am responsible for the military contacts in our state. Due to the importance of the US installations in our state, I have traveled to Washington on an annual basis since 2011 to talk to representatives of the Department of Defense and key members of Congress, such as you, in order to talk about a number of favorable aspects of the US presence in our state. Due to the Corona pandemic and respective travel restrictions, this letter is one of the activities to compensate this long-established direct dialogue.

I am sending this letter with the explicit consent of the county commissioners (Dr. Joachim Streit, Gregor Eibes), district mayors (Manfred Rodens, Dennis Junk) and local mayors (Alois Gerten, Andreas Falk) in order to emphasize the region's overwhelmingly broad support for the US Air Base Spangdahlem across party lines.

The US Air Base Spangdahlem is among the best US military installations globally. Several extensive expansion efforts – after the closure of the Bitburg Air Base and the Rhine-Main Air Base Frankfurt – have led to comprehensive investments at Spangdahlem Air Base, which have been initiated by the US Department of Defense and which have been authorized by Congress. Since 1994, more than \$1.3 billion have been spent - of which \$285.4 million have been contributed by the Federal Republic of Germany, \$65 million by NATO. Far more than \$100 million have been invested just recently. Thanks to this dedicated development program, Spangdahlem Air Base is today among the best-equipped US military installations worldwide both with regard to technical standards and quality of infrastructure. As a result, the installation has been awarded the "Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence" several times during the last couple of years.

The installations is known for its outstanding team spirit – called "the Eifel Spirit" – that goes well beyond the US service members. The local German employees, who are working at the base, show a high degree of commitment. Similarly, the whole German region holds the air base in high esteem and welcomes US families warmly as neighbors and friends in their towns and villages. Let me mention a key example for this:

Local administrative leaders, representatives of major enterprises and a number of citizens interested in fostering transatlantic relations in the Eifel area have founded the Host Nation Council (HNC) Spangdahlem in 2003. Since then, the club represents a focal point for German-American activities from which both the German and the local US population profit





greatly. In its wide variety of activities, the HNC is focused on the integration of US families into this region's towns and villages and helps to create an attractive **home away from home** for the US service members and their families.

The state government of Rheinland-Pfalz supports the region's efforts in providing an excellent German-American atmosphere. As such, the state government reinforces local measures with additional initiatives in order to create an attractive, livable and safe host region for our US families. Let me give you an example:

The state government supports the US installations and the US families in our state in finding good quality housing off-base and has initiated a subsidy scheme for housing renovation projects on the private housing market near the major US military installations in Rheinland-Pfalz more than a decade ago.

Via this program, the housing market in the Spangdahlem area alone has received 4 Million Euros in additional state funding since 2008. So far, the ongoing incentive program has triggered an overall investment of 35 Million Euros in renovation expenditures. 324 housing units have been renovated and have thus added considerably to the overall quality of the region's off-base housing market.

Honorable Congressman Wilson,

We could expand the list of activities and specific locational advantages by going into detail much further. Instead, we have compiled a list of facts and figures that provide an overview of the installation's features as well as information concerning the support measures which the state and the region contribute (attached).

As a matter of fact, the true value of all these examples can hardly be put into words. Therefore, I would hope that you could come for a visit and take a look for yourself at the advantages of the Spangdahlem Air Base. I know that the focus of those visits is necessarily on the installations themselves. While the Congressional approval of investments refers exclusively the installations, the true value-for-money of those public investments can only be understood by getting the whole picture of on-base and off-base activities. Therefore, I would like to invite you to see the various local and state activities which surround and support Spangdahlem Air Base.



I hope that you will consider this proposal. Both the decades-long German-American co-operation and friendship in the Eifel region and the excellent quality of Spangdahlem Air Base are definitely worth a second consideration concerning the planned development of stationing levels.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Lewentz

(Attachment: Fact Sheet Spangdahlem)





**Fact Sheet**

**US Air Base Spangdahlem**  
*and its host nation support environment*

**basic facts and technical features**

**key infrastructure aspects:**

- runway has a length of 10,007' plus overruns with a length of 1,000' at both ends - making it one of the longest runways within Europe
- main landing direction is equipped with a CAT II Instrument Landing System and allows virtually 24/7/365 use
- total size: 1,560 acres - after several expansions via land acquisitions in 2002, 2003, 2007 and 2009. (The additional land was acquired by the German Government and turned over to the usage by the US Air Force at no cost.)
- air base has state of the art technical facilities and community support facilities to serve a military population of 5,000 to 5,500 soldiers (3 Fighter Squadrons with 72 aircraft) and their dependents
- major Milcon projects completed within the last years:
  - Middle/High School Complex (\$87.2M - completed in 2020)
  - Commissary Complex (\$21.7M - completed in 2016)
  - Fitness Center (\$23.5M - completed in 2014)
  - Base Exchange Complex (\$29.9M completed in 2012)
  - Clinic Complex (\$30M - completed in 2012)
  - New Military Family Housing for 139 Families (\$75.6M - completed in 2010)
  - currently: addition to Clinic Complex under construction (\$36.0M - estimated completion date of Feb. 2021)
- direct connection to the European POL Pipeline network (NATO fuel pipeline)
- additionally: A just recently completed project provides a looped system on base to support resiliency. All 13 parking positions for the heavies have underfloor refueling capability. The fighters can be refueled with R-11 trucks and furthermore, there are three hot refueling pits.



- base has a total of 72 hardened aircraft shelters (HAS), 24 of the 3rd generation, big enough to support all fighter aircraft types, and 48 of the 1st generation aircraft, holding F-16s and F-35s
- own water production and wastewater treatment facilities to increase autarky
- direct Autobahn connection since 2002, located less than a mile north of the main entrance gate (after considerable road infrastructure investment by German Government)

### **host nation support environment**

#### local level:

- overwhelmingly broad regional consensus to support US installation
- very little noise complaints
- positive and smooth realization of multiple land acquisitions to expand the base
- very active regional welcome program for US families (Spangdahlem Host Nation Council)

#### state level:

- additional measures of state police to provide excellent public safety standards close to the air base and for the US inhabitants in the greater region
- good cooperation between local/regional fire fighters, emergency services with air base
- considerable investment in regional road infrastructure for efficient traffic links and commuter safety (*e.g. county, where Spangdahlem is located: approx. \$ 128M in state and federal German investment during the last five years*)
- state-funded subsidies for off-base housing market renovations: Since 2008, approx. \$4.7M in additional state funding have led to substantial renovations of 324 housing units and have triggered an overall investment of \$41.3M in regional renovation expenditures.
- advanced training opportunities for the air base's local host nation employees (state financed)
- statewide welcome program for US families in Rheinland-Pfalz with comprehensive English-language information and activities in order to enhance community integration and add to quality of life ([www.welcome-to-rlp.org](http://www.welcome-to-rlp.org); <https://de-de.facebook.com/WelcometoRLP>)